SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 24 Jul 1952

SUBJECT Foundry in Szopienice

50X1 NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

50X1

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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powers of observation.

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1. In 1947 the major portion of products from the Szopienice Foundry went to the USSR.

Prior to World War II the foundry was owned and operated by an American group of industrialists, headed by Wanamaker (fnu). Subsequently the director was Engineer (fnu) Bachleda, who was responsible to the United Industry of Nom-Ferrous Metals, Inc (Centralny Zarzad Przemyslu Metalin Niezelaznych), which, in turn, was responsible to the Ministry of Heavy Industry (Ministerstwo Przemyslu Cieszkiego). 50X1

2. Raw materials used in the Szopienice Foundry were:

   (a) zinc ore - from Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia

   (b) lead ore - from Poland

   (c) copper ore - (in 1947) from Yugoslavia

   (d) coke - from Poland

3. The products of this foundry were:

   (a) zinc - about 70 thousand tons produced per year, with the majority sent to the USSR. About 50% of the zinc was gained by a smelting process which reduced zinc oxide by coke at a temperature of 1100° C; the balance was gained by the American Anaconda process, introduced by the former American owners.

   (b) lead - about 10 thousand tons produced per year, with the majority sent to the USSR; four thousand tons were obtained by separation from the zinc which was produced at the factory; the balance of six thousand tons was gained in smelting furnaces by reduction of lead ores.

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(c) silver - about 200 tons produced per year, with the majority sent to the USSR. This metal was separated from lead and zinc by a smelting process.

(d) cadmium - about 600 tons produced per year, with the majority sent to the USSR. This metal was separated from zinc by smelting and evaporating. 50X1

(e) copper - [redacted] it was processed by an electrolysis method in a copper sulphate solution. 50X1

(f) sulphur - about seven thousand tons produced per year, with five thousand tons going to the USSR, one thousand tons to Czechoslovakia, one thousand tons to the Polish chemical industry. This metal was processed by the reduction of sulphur by coke. (A new plant was built in Szopienice in 1943 by Lurgi of Frankfurt, specifically for the preparation of sulphur.)

(g) sulphuric acid - about 7,500 tons produced per year, with the entire production slated for use in the Polish chemical industry. This chemical was produced by oxidizing sulphur dioxide with nitric oxide.

(h) refractories - mainly used in Poland in foundries for zinc ovens.

4. Equipment in the foundry is old and outmoded, with the exception of the copper, cadmium and sulphur divisions which have relatively new equipment. 50X1

5. The foundry had a small research laboratory [redacted] 50X1

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